

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 5 and 7 set forth patentable subject matter. Claims 1-3 and 6-12 are pending. Claims 4 and 5 are canceled herein.

The Objections to Claims 5 and 7

The Examiner has objected to claims 5 and 7 for being dependent on a base rejected claim, but states that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have canceled claim 5 but have incorporated the subject matter thereof and that of claim 4, from which it depends, into amended claim 1. Applicants assert that, as amended, claim 1 now recites the subject matter of claim 4 and 5 and is thus in condition for allowance.

Applicants have rewritten claim 7, which depends from claim 1, in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of claim 1. Applicants assert that, as amended, claim 7 is thus in condition for allowance.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §1 03

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-4, 6 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Heimanson *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,775,416) in view of Vosen (U.S. Patent No. 5,930,456). The Examiner has rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Heimanson *et al.* in view of Vosen and further in view of Hollman (U.S. Patent No. 6,198,299).

Applicants have canceled claim 4, rendering the rejection thereto moot.

As noted above, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 4 and 5, and thus claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3, 6 and 8-12, which depend from amended allowable claim 1, are thus similarly allowable.

Accordingly, the rejection under § 103 is now moot. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 2, 3, 6 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that the claims as amended herein overcome the objections and rejections advanced by the Examiner in the October 19, 2005 Office Action and are thus allowable. Applicants earnestly request that the remarks made herein be considered, the amendments entered and the pending claims advance to issue.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be helpful in advancing this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Applicants believe that no additional fee is due in connection with the filing of this response. Nonetheless, in the Transmittal Form submitted herewith in duplicate, the Director is authorized to charge any fees due or credit any overpayments made, to Deposit Account No. 02-4377.

Respectfully submitted,



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